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Assessment of CXCL12 (SDF-1α) polymorphisms and its serum level in posttransfusion occult HBV-infected patients in Southeastern Iran

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Background: Occult hepatitis B infection (OBI) is defined as a form of hepatitis in which, despite absence of detectable HBsAg, HBV-DNA is present in peripheral blood of patients. The main aim of this study was to determine an association between polymorphisms in +801 of CXCL12 (SDF-1α) and its serum level in OBI patients.

Methods: In this experimental study, plasma samples of 3700 blood donors were tested for HBsAg and anti-HBc by ELISA. The HBsAg(-)/anti-HBc(+) samples were selected and screened for HBV-DNA by PCR. HBV-DNA positive samples assigned as OBI cases and PCR-RFLP techniques were performed to examine the CXCL12 (SDF-1α) polymorphisms. The serum level of CXCL12 (SDF-1α) was also analyzed by ELISA.

Results: Of 3700 blood samples, 352 (9.5%) were HBsAg/anti-HBc(+) and HBV-DNA was detected in 57/352 (16.1%) of HBsAg(-)/anti-HBc(+) samples. Our results showed a significant difference in genotypes and alleles of +801 region of CXCL12 (SDF-1α). However, the serum level of CXCL12 (SDF-1α) was decreased in OBI patients but was not significant. Our results also showed that the alleles of +801 region of CXCL12 (SDF-1α) were also not associated with serum level of the chemokine.

Conclusion: The polymorphisms in +801 region of CXCL12 (SDF-1α) are possibly related to OBI.

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Epidemiological and genetic aspects of rotavirus gastroenteritis in Uzbekistan

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Background: Rotavirus is the leading agent of acute gastroenteritis in children. To evaluate the pattern of diarrheal agents and

Methods: 2450 stool samples from different regions of Uzbekistan were collected from children with acute diarrhea. The samples were tested for *Shigella* spp., *Salmonella* spp., pathogenic *E. coli* by conventional bacteriological methods and Rotavirus by ELISA. The genotyping was performed during second phase of surveillance by multiplex PCR for VP4 and VP7 genes in 101 samples.

Results: The Rotavirus was detected in 40.04 samples (981 out of 2450 samples). The Rotavirus was detected in higher rate in outpatient facilities, than in inpatient ones. Rotavirus as a single pathogen was detected in 25.35% of the patients, in and detected in association with other bacterial pathogen in 14.61% of cases. Rotavirus infection were associated with pathogenic *E. coli* in 68 cases (19.0%), *Citrobacter* spp. – in cases 65 (18.16%), *Enterobacter* spp. - in 62 cases (17.32%), *Salmonella typhimurium* - 43 (12.01%), *Shigella* spp. - 32 (8.94%) of all associated cases. The multiplex PCR for VP4 and VP7 genes revealed the prevalence of P1 in 63.4% (63 out of 101), P4 in 16.8% (17 out of 101) and P6 in 5.9% (6 out of 101) genes. The G1 was revealed in 52.5% (53 samples), G3/4 in 2.97% (3 samples) and G12 in 1.98% (2 samples).

Conclusion: P1 and G1 genotypes of Rotavirus prevail in Uzbekistan. There is a high rate of association of Rotavirus with other bacterial diarrheagenic pathogens. The implementation of vaccination against Rotavirus may benefit the reduction of Rotavirus morbidity among children in Uzbekistan.

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Evaluation of viral meningoencephalitis cases

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Background: To evaluate retrospectively adult cases of viral encephalitis.

Methods: Fifteen patients described viral encephalitis hospitalized between the years 2006-2011 follow-up and treatment at the infectious diseases clinic were analyzed retrospectively.

Results: Most of the patients (%60) had applied in the spring. Fever (87%), confusion (73%), neck stiffness (73%), headache (73%), nausea-vomiting (33%), loss of consciousness (33%), amnesia (33%), agitation (20%), convulsion (%20), focal neurological signs (13%), Brudzinski-sign (13%) were most frequently encountered findings. Electroencephalography test was applied to 13 of 14 patients, and pathological findings compatible with encephalitis have been found. Radiological imaging methods such as CT and MRI were performed in 9 of the 14 patients, and findings consistent with encephalitis were reported. All of initial cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) samples were abnormal. The domination of the first examples was lymphocytes in 14 patients; only one patient had an increase in neutrophilic cells have been found. CSF protein level was high in nine patients, and low glucose level was detected in two patients. Herpes simplex virus polymerized chain reaction (PCR) analyze was performed to fourteen patients CSF. Only two of them (14%) were found positive. One of the patients sample selectively examined was found to be Parvovirus B19 (+), the other patient urine sam-